



Cippenham Table Tennis Club

Annual Report 2009-10

Highlights of the Year

This report summarises the thirty-seventh season in the history of Cippenham Table Tennis Club and the fourteenth since the opening of our purpose-built premises. There were many highlights of the season of which the most important were:

- The presentations to Graham Trimming and Peter Hillier at the Mayor of Slough's Annual Sports Awards;
- The fight for the Slough League championship eventually won by Outlaws by one point over Buccaneers;
- All the teams in the British League maintaining their places in their respective divisions after good results in the final weekend;
- the continuing use of Cippenham Table Tennis Centre by the ETTA for prestigious events including the National Cadet Masters, County Championships Senior and Junior Premier divisions and British League including the play-offs.

However, there is no doubt that the past year has also been the most challenging for the Club since moving to these premises in 1996. This was the year when the inevitable happened – that too much reliance on too few hard-working individuals proved costly when those persons were not able to carry on in the same manner as before. Jacquie Lovell, who has given as much if not more than anyone to the Club over the past fourteen years, had to withdraw altogether for medical reasons while two others in the Club's management team found that the long hours demanded by their salaried employers restricted their contributions more than they or the Club would have preferred.

Cippenham Table Tennis Centre



Cippenham Table Tennis Centre was opened on 1 October 1996 as a result of the hard work and enterprise of the Club's Management Committee. It is a joint project with The Westgate School and is used by the School during school hours for a variety of sporting activities. Outside of schools hours it is used exclusively by the Club for table tennis. The Centre is managed by Cippenham Table Tennis Centre Limited, a company formed by the management of the Club for the sole purpose of managing the facility. The Board of Directors includes six Club members and representatives of the School.

The Centre comprises a playing hall (25m x 22m) with adjacent storage, plus an amenities area that includes a lounge area with servery, extended in 2004, and which has a full width, glazed screen providing views into the playing area. This facet of the design attracts many compliments from visitors. There is a spacious reception area and an office that doubles as a control point for tournaments. There is a disabled washroom and changing and toilet facilities completed in 2004 as part of a substantial upgrade of facilities undertaken by the School. In the opinion of many the Centre is the finest table tennis facility in the country.

The Centre owns nine Tibhar Smash 28/SC tournament tables purchased in 2007 and 11 Donic Waldner Sinus tables retained from a previous lot. The latter remain the first to be used on Club evenings while the newer tables are used for week-end events. Net and post sets are regularly replaced in order to maintain standards. Twelve scoring machines have been refurbished with numbers produced on the Club's own laminating machine. Since 2003 the Centre has benefited from 80 court surrounds in blue with the name of the Club printed in yellow. This has helped create a striking brand identity at the home venue. Many of these are stored on a purpose-made trolley but are now showing signs of wear from being moved on and off its frame and are due for renewal. There are also about 90 quality spectator chairs. The Club owns a robot ball-feeding machine which is used for coaching and training purposes.

The Club has a series of approved court configurations for use in competitive events and there are markings for these on the skirting thereby easing the tournament set-up process. These configurations cater for four Grade 2 courts, eight and nine courts of at least Grade 3 size and twelve courts for lesser events. The main criteria for selection of these configurations were implications for health and safety.

Administration

The Management Committee elected at the 2009 AGM met only 5 times after the rules were relaxed at the last AGM about the frequency of such meetings. Constitution and personal attendances were as follows:

Name	Position	Meetings	Attendance	
Graham Trimming	Chairman/General Secretary	5	September 6	7
Peter Hillier	Treasurer/Bookings Officer	5	October 18	8
Sue Hayes	Deputy Chairman	5	December 6	6
Jacquie Lovell	Social Officer	3	March 7	5
Steve Smith	Events Officer	3	April 25	6
Martin Adams	General Committee member	1		
Neil Bird	General Committee member	3		
Terry Boxall	General Committee member	5		
John Lloyd	General Committee member	2		

Jacquie Lovell resigned as Social Officer on 5 February 2010 but continued as a general Committee member. Unfortunately, Jacquie has been indisposed since and her absence and inability to contribute as she had done for the previous fourteen years has left a gap that has been difficult, if not impossible, to fill. If we ever needed to recognise how much we had depended on Jacquie then it was brought home very quickly.

Steve Smith and Sue Hayes have also found it difficult to maintain their previous high levels of contribution due to increased workload with their salaried employment although Sue has recently been exceptional in dealing with a lot of jobs vacated by Jacquie. It has to be acknowledged that, even so, Steve and Sue remain two of the hardest working volunteers at the Club.

Because of this situation the Club held a Special General Meeting on 26 March with an agenda that set out the problems the Club is currently facing and sought resolution in the way of additional voluntary uptake. Unfortunately the meeting attracted only the already committed and was a failure in this respect. Next year's Management Committee may have to decide on a reduced programme of activities to match the reduced availability of volunteer assistance.

For the fifth year the Management Committee drew up an Organization Chart. This has two purposes: it formalised the structure of responsibility with Officers shown the scope of their departmental responsibilities and it identified gaps in the management hierarchy. Some gaps remain unfilled.

As a result the following additional appointments were made:

Development Coordinator:	Graham Trimming
Welfare Officer:	Sue Hayes
Bucks CTTA Representative:	Ken Phillips
Head Coach:	Ken Phillips
Slough Schools Coaching Liaison:	Sue Hayes
Committee Secretary:	Neil Bird
Membership Secretary:	Graham Trimming
PremierClub Contact:	Graham Trimming
Press Secretary:	Graham Trimming
Newsletter Editor:	Graham Trimming
Webmaster:	Graham Trimming
Supply Members' Agent:	Roy Linz
Marketing Coordinator:	Martin Adams
Calendar Coordinator:	Peter Hillier
Weekend Set-up Coordinator:	Jim Hayes
Weekday Duty Manager:	Sue Hayes
Grand Prix Administrator:	Steve Smith
Series Administrator:	Steve Smith
Umpires' Coordinator:	Terry Boxall
Servery Manager:	Jacquie Lovell (resigned 5 February 2010)
Anniversary Party Organiser:	Jacquie Lovell
Christmas Party Organiser:	Eddie Mitchell
Facilities Manager:	Terry Boxall
Westgate School Liaison:	Sue Hayes (email correspondence taken over by Graham Trimming in October)
Health and Safety Advisor:	Terry Boxall
Maintenance Manager:	Terry Boxall
Supply Club Agent:	Peter Hillier
Auditor:	Filippo Rotunno.



Also, secretaries and captains were appointed for all teams and organizers and referees appointed for all major events. These are noted later in this Report.

In addition the following sub-committees were elected:

Karen Mitchell Memorial Fund: Jacquie Lovell; Charles Mitchell; Frankie Butterworth
Calendar: Peter Hillier; Sue Hayes; Steve Smith; Graham Trimming.

Necessarily, all the Committee members do far more than might be supposed from their job titles. Thanks are due to all who have contributed to the administration of the Club, including all the team captains.

External appointments included:

Graham Trimming:	Fixtures Secretary, Handbook Secretary, Webmaster, acting Chairman, acting General Secretary and acting Treasurer for the Slough League and Auditor for the Maidenhead Association;
Steve Smith:	Deputy Referee for ETTA London Grand Prix and ETTA Wolverhampton Grand Prix;
Terry Boxall:	Umpires' Secretary for the Bucks Association;
Ken Phillips:	Coaching Officer and Selector for the Bucks Association and Referee for the Bucks Closed Championships; Organiser for the ETTA National Cadet Masters;
Jan Chapman:	Chair of the Maidenhead Association;
Elroy Hull:	Competitions Secretary and Inter-League Secretary for the Slough League;
Nick Hansell:	Treasurer for the Bucks Association;
Charlie Childs:	Vice-Chairman National Coaching for the ETTA.

Volunteer Investment and Awards

The Club has, for several years now, placed great emphasis on volunteer investment management – the recruitment, retention and reward of the Club's volunteer work force. Although there are never enough people to do all the things we would like to do, especially over the past year, the Club does have a more able, better focussed and more highly motivated volunteer force than most other organizations of its type. This is recognized by the ETTA which continues to place faith in the Club to host events on its behalf. However, this facet of the Club's management has suffered in the past two years by the lack of anybody able and willing to fulfil the role of Volunteer Champion.



Jacquie Lovell undertook to organise the Anniversary Party, held each year soon after 1 October as a celebration of the opening of Cippenham Table Tennis Centre in 1996. The highlight of this occasion is usually the presentation of the Karen Mitchell Outstanding Contribution Award which this year went to Jim Hayes for his unconditional support of the Club over many years and specifically his management of the equipment set-up for weekend events. However, this year this particular award was usurped by the



Junior Player of the Year award. The reason was that the Club was delighted to append the name of the late Alan Farral to this award and Jean, Vanessa and Adam Farral were present to make the presentation to Eddie Mitchell. The Senior Player of the Year award was presented on the same occasion to Steve Smith.

Since February 2003 the Centre has employed a paid Duty Officer to be present on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. The Club is fortunate to have had the services of Steph Mitchell to fulfil this role and Ricky Hardcastle has performed a similar function at the Friday sessions.

Much of the work that is necessary to run a club with such high activity levels goes unseen by the general membership and some of it is far from glamorous. A good example is setting up for weekend events. Many Friday evenings see a team of people at the Centre moving tables, chairs and screens into position so that a perfect arena awaits the first participants on a Saturday or Sunday morning. This work is managed by Jim Hayes and is largely undertaken by members of the Hayes family with help from whoever is present at the Friday practice sessions. Another aspect that goes largely unnoticed is maintenance. Terry Boxall undertakes much of this work and uses his many skills for the benefit of the club.

The Club would like to place on record its grateful thanks to the many people that assist in a great variety of ways. The Management Committee members work very hard but are assisted by a great many more in such tasks as catering, captaining of teams, coaching, umpiring, chauffeuring youngsters, setting up for weekend events, general maintenance, etc. The Club can count on about thirty-five volunteers for various roles, a huge number in comparison to other organizations. Not all of our valuable volunteers are even members of the Club, some are parents. Particular thanks are also due to Mick Strode who has again acted as referee for many events this season. The country's best and most active referee is a more frequent visitor to Cippenham than many of our members!

Development

Phase 6, year 5, of the Club's Action Plan included follow-ups to previous plans and improvement of the lighting in the playing hall.

Objective: to recruit and retain more new players in order to build membership

The community coaching project in conjunction with the Slough and Wexham School Sports Partnership took off in this year. Jan Chapman, appointed in April 2009, led sessions in many local schools and organised two successful schools'

team championships at the Club. Lisa Williams, ETTA Regional Development Manager, reported in March that 140 children were taking part in schools and that six pupils had transferred to the Club. Schools involved included: Cippenham Junior; James Elliman Junior; Montem Junior; Ryvers Junior; St. Bernards Senior and St. Elthelberts.

Objective: to enhance the available skill sets available to the Club

Jan Chapman, Malcolm Makarian and Ken Phillips attended the course to convert their coaching qualifications from the old ETTA ones to UKCC. Jan and Ken are now accredited UKCC Level 2 coaches. A complete list of qualified coaches can be found in the appendix to this report.

Steve Smith qualified as a Tournament Referee bringing the number of qualified referees in the Club's membership up to four.

Objective: to improve the lighting in the playing hall

A retractable curtain was installed in October at a cost of £3,500. This half-height (ceiling downwards) curtain reduces the effect of glare originating from the opposite side of the playing hall and has therefore made a positive impact on the perceived quality of the lighting. Even the staunchest former critic of the lighting at the Club has remarked, on more than one occasion, that the lighting is now very much better.

Accreditation

For some years now the Club has been seeking accreditation by entering itself and its players and volunteers for awards and has been very successful in gaining recognition in this way on a number of occasions.

The Club retained its status as an ETTA *PremierClub* at the highest Excellence level and with it the Sport England ClubMark accreditation. Also, of course, the Centre continues to feature in the Official Guide for Pre-Games Training Camps for the London 2012 Olympics.



The annual Mayor of Slough's Sports Awards in March brought honour to the two most long-serving of the Club's management team. Graham Trimming's award of the Mewa Mann Award for Contribution to Sport was a surprise as this is the only award not open to nomination by the public; instead it is decided only by the Organising Committee. Additionally, Peter Hillier followed two other members of the Club is gaining the prestigious Service to Sport Award for which the Club submitted his nomination.

When a development plan was written in 2004-5 the chosen mission statement was "to be the pre-eminent table tennis club in England". Pre-eminence suggests an important "presence" in national table tennis activities. An unofficial ranking of clubs in the British leagues, based on a statistical analysis carried out by the Club, shows that Cippenham has retained third place overall out of nearly 120.

Membership

The current official membership of the Club stands at 173, 44 down on the same stage last year. The final figure for the year ended 31 August 2009 was 232, 21 up on the previous year. To put this into context, the total membership in 1996 prior to the move into our purpose-built centre was 60. However, the gains in membership made in 2007-8 and 2008-9 have largely been reversed in the current year. Maybe, it's the credit crunch! A small number of the members are non-playing, having joined through the Club's family membership scheme, but nevertheless the Club must be one of the largest in the country.

For the first time ever the Club issued membership cards. These were professionally printed and featured a photograph of the Club's premises on the face of the card along with logos for the Club, ETTA PremierClub and ClubMark. On the reverse was an advertisement for the card's sponsors, Rosemount Accounting Services, the accountancy practice set up by the Club's Chairman and General Secretary Graham Trimming.

Members are only permitted to use the Centre when it is officially open. The only exceptions to this are key-holding Privileged Members. These are Management Committee members who have been in office for at least one year and a few others who have been rewarded for their outstanding contributions. In 1999 the Club introduced another tier, the Gold Privileged Member. To qualify for this, members must have given outstanding service to the Club over a period of at least two years and the benefits include not having to pay any fees for matches, coaching and practice.

Over the past twelve months a total of 66 players (not including a "guest" in the National Junior League) have represented the club in match play, 5 more than in the previous year. A massive 24 of these made their debuts for Cippenham during the year compared to 17 the previous year. 18 teams were entered into various leagues during the past season, 3 more than in the previous season. 7 teams were entered into British leagues, 3 in the National Junior League and 4 in both the Slough and Maidenhead local leagues.

The Club is now 37 years old and during that time a total of 704 players have played in our teams. The Club's Founder, Graham Trimming, is easily the player with the most appearances for the Club closing in on 1,500 while Peter Hillier is secure on his own in second place with more than 800. During the season, Mike Rhodes became the fourth player to pass the 600 appearances mark for the Club. No others passed a century landmark. The all time leading appearance list now reads:

Graham Trimming	1464	David Hayes	345	Steve Crow	268
Peter Hillier	830	Georgia Veneer	336	Robert Hansell	265
Frank Earis	669	Armando Borges	334	Roland Clapton	257
Mike Rhodes	605	Rodney Potts	316	Sue Hayes	256
Ken Phillips	549	Alec Watson	301	Jane Dickens	235
Neil Bird	428	Jacquie Lovell	282	James Milton	205
Jackie Wood	403	Gemma Chapman	282	Anna Watton	204
Paul Baker	396	Wendy Barlow	279	Andrew Dickens	203
Gareth Lovell	381	Steve Joel	278	Steve Dorrell	202
George Appleby	372	Dave Pountney	276	Catherine Hayes	200
Frank Cowley	363				

The busiest players during the year were Paul Baker (47), Ricky Hardcastle (36), Anthony Gardner and Steve Smith (both 28).

Finance

This was the year in which the finances of the Club became undone to a certain extent. The reduction in the number of members had an effect also on the financial result with practice (down £1,400) and coaching (down £1,200) income reduced. In addition, our open tournaments did not fare well for entries and this had a double whammy effect. Entry fee income was down more than £1,500, catering income down £3,500 yet we still had the expense of the £1,580 Series prize fund. Even though five of the eleven days of the Series had yet to be completed at the financial year-end the Club has taken the prudent step of including the entire prize fund expense in this year's accounts. The three-year cycle of expenditure on kit for our teams in the British leagues also arose in this financial year and further expense was incurred by three, rather than one, trips to Devon. With one additional team also, the total spend in the British league was up £2,700 on the previous season. In addition, half of the £1,000 income recorded last year from Slough Borough Council had to be written-off when the Council reneged on an agreement with the Club. That, in itself, showed up as a £1,500 reduction in income compared to the previous year.



Taking the Club and Cippenham Table Tennis Centre Ltd together, as we must, a small surplus of £220 was still made. However, this is after crediting £1,475 interest income and so at the operating line a deficit of £1,255 is revealed. This can be considered allowable in one-off situations or when particular circumstances arise or decisions taken that make a loss strategically acceptable but should not be allowed to become normal. Next year's management team will have to make corrective decisions but so much depends on the Club's ability to make profit out of catering. At present, no volunteer has come forward to manage this function and so a prudent committee might have to construct a budget with zero profit from catering and sub-contract the operation.

Notwithstanding the above, at the end of the financial year in April, cash balances stood at about £63,200 (2009: £65,300) and net assets at £85,900 (2009: £85,700). That is still good in anybody's terms.

No new increases in fees were introduced this season and the only increase proposed for next season is to external hirers. That rate has been £20 per hour although a 20% discount is available to hirers that meet a certain threshold. Annual membership fees remained £15, practice and match fees £3.50 and coaching fees £5. All these are halved for juniors and over-60s. Practice fees for non-members carry a £1.50 (75p) surcharge. A special Family Membership fee of £25.00 is available to any number of related persons residing at the same address. Players in the National Junior League continued to pay a £12 fee to part cover the season's expenses and for the fifth year players in the British leagues were asked to contribute the cost of their individual registration fees with the Club continuing to bear the remainder of the cost.

A structured approach to reimbursing expenses for teams in the British leagues continued this season. This is available for all teams playing away from Cippenham.

The Club maintained the Karen Mitchell Memorial Fund in recognition of our friend who passed away in 2000. The Fund was started with a very generous donation from Charles Mitchell and is being topped up by a contribution of 5% of the entry fees of all junior and younger age open tournaments run by the Club. The aim of the Fund is to provide financial assistance for children's activities and that includes support for children who may, for one reason or another, need help with expenses incurred in the pursuit of table tennis. The current value of the Fund is separately disclosed in the accounts.

Public Relations

Although the Club has not been able to find an appointee for the position of Public Relations Officer, a significant amount of work has, nevertheless, been undertaken, and much of it by Graham Trimming. The Club's activities and successes

have continued to be reported in the three local newspapers, Express, Observer and Maidenhead Advertiser although the amount of space allotted has shrunk compared to a few years ago. Most submitted reports find space in the Express and Advertiser although many are relegated to the "Sport in Short" section. Mysteriously, the Observer has not printed a report submitted by the Club since last summer. The comparative lack of success by the Club's teams and players has a lot to do with this rather than the quality or frequency of submitting reports. 24 reports have been submitted during the year covering 26 stories. The total column inches were only about 235 compared to 600 last year and more than 1,200 five years ago. One of the Club's reports also appeared in "Table Tennis News" and eight on the ETTA web site. An edition of the Club Newsletter has also been published each month except July during the past year. These provide the reader with reports of events that have happened and news about events yet to occur. These and the notice boards at the Centre are an important source of information for everyone. A Membership Pack was introduced several years ago and this has proved to be a useful document to give to potential members on the occasion of their first visit.

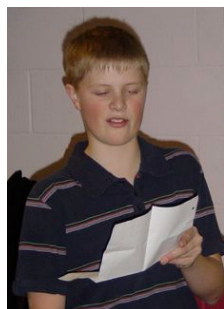
The Club also has its own web site (www.cippenhamttc.co.uk). This was completely re-designed by Graham about eighteen months ago and is hosted by Square Brothers in India. The site is a valuable vehicle for members' information, introductions to the Club for outsiders, results of Club events as well as providing an opportunity to download colour copies of the Club's monthly Newsletter and entry forms for forthcoming tournaments. The Club almost certainly owns the most extensive and regularly updated club table tennis web site in the country. Statistics recording the number of visits and hits show the following average numbers (viewed traffic only) per month from June 2009 to May 2010 has been: 527 unique visitors; 986 visits; 2,666 pages; 30,944 hits. April 2010, with 1,346 visits, was the busiest month ever. Many of the membership enquiries received by the Secretary originate from the website.

Extensive use of photographs, mostly taken against the backdrop purchased in September 2007, has been made to illustrate press reports and items on the Club's website. All winners and runners-up of open tournaments have been photographed and these have all appeared on the Club's website. A new colour photocopier, a replacement for an older monochrome copier, was leased from December so those photographs can now be enjoyed more fully by readers of the Club's Newsletter.

Then Club has enjoyed a good working relationship with Bribar since signing up with them as the Club's official suppliers in 2006 and has welcomed Barry and Sue Chapman at some events. The British leagues teams' strip was changed to red shirts and black shorts for this season but still carries the Club's professionally designed logo on the back of the shirt and tracksuit.

Social Activities and Amenities

One of the best features of the design of the Centre is the lounge and refreshment area with its viewing aspect into the playing hall. This area and the servery cope well with the demands placed upon them to feed 100 or so competitors plus their coaches and parents, especially since the area was extended in 2004. The success of the Club's catering was due totally to the skill and hard work of the Club's former Social Officer Jacquie Lovell until she had to withdraw for medical reasons in the Spring. Sue Hayes then stepped into the breach and arranged the staffing while Ken Phillips helped considerably by purchasing stock from Bookers. The Club would also like to pay tribute to the other hard-working volunteer staff: Haley Allen, Terry Boxall, Frankie Butterworth, Jan Chapman, Ricky Hardcastle, Catherine Hayes, Naomi Hayes, Rebecca Hayes, Maggie Kirby, Alexander Lovell, Charles Mitchell; Eddie Mitchell, Stephanie Mitchell, Phil Prady, Steve Smith, Gill Tucker and Tanya Waller.



The lounge has become a magnet for players at events while they are not actually playing. Many members and visitors prefer to sit inside the lounge area where they can eat, drink and talk rather than stay in the playing arena. The television, VCR and streaming monitor, are also popular attractions. For the very young there is also a range of toys and this sometimes results in the lounge appearing more like a crèche. The Club's own mobile telephone provides a communication link to and from the venue.

The thirteenth annual party, organized by Jacquie Lovell, was arranged in the lounge to celebrate the anniversary of the opening of the Centre and this was well attended by members and their families. Eddie Mitchell ran the Christmas Party and, for a second year, did a superb job in managing an entertaining and well-attended event.

Venue Utilisation

Since the opening of Cippenham Table Tennis Centre two principles of utilisation have been established: weekdays should be for regular events, and weekends should be filled on an ad hoc basis with no regular weekly events impeding this. This year the weekday format has been:

Monday	7:15 to 9:15 pm	Advanced coaching group
Tuesday	7:15 to 11:00 pm	Local league matches
	7:30 to 11:00 pm	General practice
	7:40 to 10:15 pm	Grand Prix
Wednesday	7:30 to 9:30 pm	Squad coaching
Thursday	5:15 to 7:15 pm	Beginners' coaching
	7:15 to 11:00 pm	Local league matches
	7:30 to 11:00 pm	General practice
Friday	7:00 to 9:00 pm	General practice

Friday times have recently been changed to 7:30 to 9:30 pm. In addition, the Club Championships used some of the hall on three Tuesday evenings and one early Thursday session in May.

Privileged Members are allowed to play when the Centre is not in use for other activities. Many weekend dates have been sold to outside events, detailed later in this report, or used for tournaments organised by the Club.

On each occasion that the Centre is open a Duty Officer is nominated. The responsibilities of the Duty Officer include the collection of fees, health and safety, the proper use and storage of the Club's equipment together with the security of the Centre.

External Events

The Club continues to be very successful at marketing the Centre for external events. Extensive use has been made by the ETTA, ETTA Southern Region, Bucks County Association and the Maidenhead and Reading leagues.

The ETTA events included the National Cadet Masters and Premier Divisions of the Senior and Junior County Championships. All of these have now been staged at Cippenham for many years. For the Masters the venue is given free of charge to the national association. Apart from the provision of a venue and the effort involved in setting this up, there is also a great deal of organizational and catering work involved on these occasions and the Club is especially indebted to Ken Phillips, Steve Smith, Jackie Lovell and their teams for their involvement in this and to Terry Boxall who acts as Duty Officer for many of the Bucks and Southern Region bookings.

The Club also hosted all four weekends of the British League Division 1 South and Midlands, three weekends of Division 1 South and the Division 1 Promotion Play-offs. The main British League weekends were organized by Graham Trimming and the Play-offs by Peter Hillier while Ken Phillips acted as Referee. As has been the case since its inception, the Club, acting in conjunction with Mike Atkinson and Chesham High School, hosted the four days of the National Junior League, this year, again, just the girls' division, and with Sue Hayes and Chris Tucker doing the organization and administration.

A full list of outside events (June 2009-May 2010), totalling 49 days, 9 more than the previous year, was as follows:

ETTA:	National Cadet Masters (2 days)
	County Championships Senior Premier Division (2)
	County Championships Junior Premier Division (2)
	British League (9)
	National Junior League (4)
	Coach education courses (7)
ETTA Southern Region:	Junior Training (6) (includes 4 weekdays)
Bucks County TTA:	County Championships sessions (6)
	Junior & Veterans' Trials
Maidenhead & DTTA:	Maidenhead Closed Championships (2)
Reading League:	Reading Closed Championships (2)
Gareth Herbert:	Weekend coaching sessions (6)

Club Events

Open Tournaments

Seven open tournaments, covering thirteen days of play, were staged by the Club at the Centre:

Date	Event	Organizer	Referee	Entries
Jun 09	Young Players' Summer Festival	Ken Phillips	Ken Phillips	280
Aug 09	Series 1: Senior/Junior 2-Star	Catherine Hayes	Mick Strode	92
Nov 09	Team 2-Star	Graham Trimming	Graham Trimming	23 pairs
Jan 10	Young Players' New Year Festival	Steve Smith & Graham Trimming	Graham Trimming & Mick Strode	152
Apr 10	Series 3: Senior/Junior 2-Star	Graham Trimming	Steve Smith & Graham Trimming	51
Apr 10	Series 4: Senior/Junior 2-Star	Sue Hayes	Mick Strode	40
May 10	Series 5: Senior/Veteran 2-Star	Paul Baker	Steve Smith	51

One of the original dates for the Series was not approved by the ETTA and so that tournament has been re-scheduled for July. Also re-scheduled for July is Series 2 that was cancelled in February due to lack of entries. This is the first time in the fourteen years of running open tournaments that the Club has taken the decision to cancel through lack of entries. The Club is not the only organising body to be affected by a downturn in entries to tournaments; other events have been similarly affected probably as a result of the credit crunch.

All our tournaments from August onwards, with the exception of the Team Open, suffered from reduced entries. No doubt that the recession caused some of this but other factors may have been self-inflicted. The dates were decided late; entry forms were often distributed only electronically rather than via the postal system and many of these were sent out with too little time before the closing date for entries. All of this needs to be re-addressed next season. Had the Series format not been in operation, with a "contractual" element attached to its prize money then the Club might have considered cancelling more of the events.

The Series concept, which has now run for two seasons, is to be scrapped. The Series comprised of five senior, three junior and three veterans' tournaments, organised over six weekends, with points accumulated by participants over the Series for a cash prize fund of £1,580 at the end of the season. This appeared to be a good idea, and still has merit, but has not worked in the current circumstances.

Next season the Series is to be replaced by six one-day events. Three of these are to be branded Cippenham Super Six 2-Star Opens and will be open, junior and veteran age groups. This is partially a return to the successful open tournaments run in the eleven years prior to the Series but the number of participants will be restricted to 48 in return for groups of 6 with no time lapse between each group and the knock-out stages. It is expected that this will appeal as a premium product to potential participants.

The other three tournaments will be branded Cippenham Five by Two 1-Star Opens and will feature two age groups each day. Each event will be run in groups of five and so there will be a maximum permitted entry of 45 or 60 players depending on whether the nine or twelve table layout is used. The 9-table layout will be used for days that include events other than juniors. It is expected that the 1-star status of these events will appeal more to players of lesser standard as the number of ETTA ranking points available will be lower but there are no player licence fees payable. The three days will be: open/juniors; open/veterans; cadet/under13.

The Team 2-Star Open and Young Players' Summer Festival will remain in their current successful format.

All dates have been set and sent to the ETTA for approval and all organisers and referees appointed.

The Club used to supply a good number of winners of our own tournaments. This is not so anymore. However Cedric Brion and Rafique Sarahadi, as Spin Team, won the Team Open and Steve Buck reached the final of the Men's Singles at Series 4.

Many thanks are due to Steve Smith and the organizers, their unsung helpers, especially Malcolm Makarian, and referees, especially Mick Strode. It is a testament to their abilities that so many pleasant messages are received from happy participants at the end of the day's play.

Club Championships

The Club Championships were staged the same way as the past three seasons, during practice evenings in a less formal setting. All events, apart from the Tweenies' Singles, attracted good numbers of entrants with 27 taking part in the Junior Singles run during a Thursday beginners' coaching session.

Colin Wilson lost his Open Singles crown when narrowly defeated in the final by Rafique Sarhadi. Graham Trimming, Steve Buck and George Weller won the veterans', tweenies' and junior events with the young partnership of Michael Ho and Eddie Mitchell capturing the Open Doubles.



Grand Prix

Participation in the Club's weekly Tuesday evening Grand Prix has diminished during the past year. This could be because of the reduction in the number of members, especially new members, but also because it has not been administered as well as previously. Results have been late appearing on the Club website and no reports have been sent to the local press because of the lack of results and photographs. This may have had the effect of reducing the prestige of the event. After a recent break for the Club Championships, the Grand Prix will be re-launched on 8 June as an ideal way to keep playing through the summer.

There have been eight Grand Prix in the year and Chris Collins won three in a row in the winter. Ricky Hardcastle won the first two and the others have been won by Krysztof Zemelka, Anthony Gardner and Steve Crow.

Team Competitions

The Club ran eighteen teams in various leagues this season but the only real success came locally. Most of the teams in

the British leagues finished close to the bottom of their divisions.

The following managerial positions were appointed, acknowledged with thanks for their time and energy:

British League	Captain and Secretary:	Martin Adams
	Team Captains:	Martin Adams; Mark Jackson; Paul Baker
Women's British League	Captain and Secretary:	Sue Hayes
Junior British League	Secretary:	Sue Hayes
	Non-playing Captain (boys):	Steve Smith
	Non-playing Captain (girls):	Sue Hayes
Veterans' British League	Captain:	Mike Rhodes
	Secretary:	Graham Trimming
National Junior League	Captain and Secretary:	Terry Boxall
Slough League	Captain:	John Lloyd
	Secretary:	Graham Trimming
	Team Captains:	Neil Bird; Terry Boxall; John Lloyd; Armando Borges
Maidenhead League	Captain and Secretary:	Steve Smith
	Team Captains	Simon Wilde; Steve Smith; Peter Hillier

British League Competitions

Seven teams were run in the British leagues, one more than the previous season following the reinstatement of a team in the Women's British League.

All three teams in the British League finished seventh in their divisions, one place above the relegation zone. While the third team's survival in Division Two South and West was assured long before the end of the season, the first and second teams in Division One South and Division One South and Midlands had to wait until the final match of the season to gain the same assurance. In fact, the second team were not safe until after their own final match had concluded as the outcome ultimately depended on the result of another match.

The Club made a welcome return to the Women's British League after an absence of just one year. Charleigh Kirby won an impressive 80% of her matches yet the team had to be content with finishing fifth in Division 3 and face possible relegation.

In the Junior British League the Club put together a strong girls' team that finished third in the Premier Division while the boys' team were bottom of Division 1 and gained only one point in a disappointing campaign.

The Club's disappointing season in the British leagues was completed when the veteran men's team finished fifth in Division 1B and also face relegation.

National League Competitions

Three boys' teams, one down on the previous year, were entered into the National Junior League played at Chesham High School. Alex Nagle was the undoubted star, losing only once in 35 matches. His Cippenham C team finished the season second in Division 2 with the A and B teams in third and fourth places. George Weller and Joseph Underwood also won more than two-thirds of their matches in a largely successful campaign.

Local leagues



The Club mixed its players around for the Slough League campaign with the best performers split across three teams. The idea was to make the League competitive and so it proved. Cippenham Outlaws were the eventual winners of the League. They beat Cippenham Buccaneers by a solitary point won in the final set on the final day of the season and despite having lost 8-2 and 9-1 to their title contenders. Congratulations to Neil Bird, Graham Trimming and Anthony Gardner who all featured highly in the League's averages as did Paul Baker, Steve Smith and Ricky Hardcastle. However, top of the averages, unbeaten all season, was Rafique Sarhadi.

Due to the sterling efforts of Steve Smith, the Club was able to enter four teams into the Maidenhead League for the first time ever. This represented an additional three teams over the previous season. Cippenham Spartans eventually came second in the Premier Division, with Simon Wilde winning the coveted Wilkinson Sword for the highest average of those who had played the required number of matches. Cippenham Saxons finished only one place behind.

In Division One Cippenham Trojans were third with Ricky Hardcastle topping the divisional averages and Cippenham Vikings stormed to the Division Three championship. Congratulations to Rob Evans and David Williams, first and second in the division's averages, and Steve Harben.



Coaching

Coaching of young players has been one of the most important tasks undertaken by the Club over many years and is one of the cornerstones of the Club's enviable reputation nationally. However, there are now fewer children being coached for fewer hours than at any previous time since 1996. The Slough and Wexham School Sports Partnership initiative has started to bring in new recruits and it is hoped that this will multiply in the future. Our highly accredited Head Coach Ken Phillips is assisted by many other qualified and student coaches.

Many of the players attracted to the Club come from other coaching classes run by Ken and an informal cluster exists comprising: Farnham Common Middle School; St. Anthony's School, Slough; Lynch Hill School, Britwell; Oldfield Junior School, Maidenhead; and the Westgate and Cippenham Junior Schools Cluster. The Club also attracts youngsters from many miles away who want to take advantage of the high standard of coaching and development management available at the Club. Terry Boxall also performs curricular coaching at the host Westgate School.



There have been three weekly coaching sessions this year. On Thursday early evenings there are beginners' classes run by Terry Boxall. On Monday there are classes for more advanced performers run by Ken Phillips with help from a number of other coaches and feeders including Jan Chapman. The other regular weekly session takes place on Wednesday evenings. This is for a squad of invited players and is under Sue Hayes' management with assistance from Roy Linz.

The coaches and student coaches currently working at the Club are: Terry Boxall, Jan Chapman, Sue Hayes, Mary Heffernan, Muriel Hooker, Roy Linz, Malcolm Makarian, Ken Phillips, Steve Smith and Colin Wilson. The Club is indebted to them for their hard work that involves many hours each week.

Tournament Success for Individuals

There has been little in the way of success in national competitions for Club members this year except for Natalie Slater, a non-local member of our girls' team in the Junior British League. She won the Junior 6 Nations team event with England and was runner-up in the Junior Girls' Singles. Natalie also won the Junior Mixed Doubles at the National Junior Championships.

Locally, Robert Hansell won the Men's Singles at the Bucks Closed while Eddie and Steph Mitchell won the junior events at the Bucks Trials. Late in the season Paul Baker won the Slough Masters Tournament having eliminated Rafique Sarhadi in the first round.



Representative Honours and Rankings

Natalie Slater was the Club's only member to gain international honours this season – the Evans family did not renew their membership! However, fourteen players represented Bucks, two more represented Berkshire and two represented Maidenhead in the Berkshire Inter-Town.

Natalie Slater (10 in senior women and 5 in junior girls), Michael Ho (7 in cadet boys) and Charleigh Kirby (6 in cadet girls) all broke into the top ten nationally during the season. Gemma Chapman, Eddie Mitchell, Haylee Potts, George Downing and Muriel Hooker also featured highly in the lists presented on the ETTA's website.

Please see the attached Appendix for a complete statistical review of the playing season.

Graham Trimming
Chairman & General Secretary
June 2010